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PUBLIC STATEMENT OF JOHN MCGRAW

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MR. MCGRAW: Great. Thank you for holding these hearings, in a way fulfilling the lawful obligation to hold public hearings, and it is our obligation and right to express our opinions and our informed comments on what is going on that affects all of us.

I want to thank you for having the meetings and all the people and those that are gathered and make the time. Because like the previous speaker, there are those who are either ignorant or don't know what to do, and in a way, I'd like to say that, address that in my final comments.

MR. LAWSON: Could I also ask you to give your name?

MR. MCGRAW: My name is John McGraw, and actually, I became more aware of the issues in the '70s, and it seemed back then we had some movement towards sanity with test ban treaties and some sort of a scientific accumulation of the horrors of radioactivity. But since then it's been difficult to stop this huge momentum of fear and cold war and these needs for energy that we just couldn't really slow it down enough. And it requires a constant opposition to, well, what we know as cancer causing and detrimental to life itself, especially since we know there are alternatives.

It's been characterized in a gentle way, some sort of genie that's been let out of the bottle. I must protest this is much too kind of a characterization. It is more of a beast. And the beast is loose, and it's trying to find a hiding place.

Now, unfortunately, nuclear waste has no way of hiding. Ask any of the survivors of the only time we have dropped the bomb or those who live near nuclear waste disposals or those who will be in the vicinity of these casks that do leak radiation.

There was a very profound protest last year around some critical tests, and it not only is a continuation of production of nuclear waste, but our best scientific minds are continuing in the same wrong direction of prolonging and proliferating not only bomb making but nuclear waste from energy production.

Now, this beast is a -- well, it's larger than any of us. It's a horrible thing. And we must tether it and draw it in and

perhaps direct our resources, our best minds, from continuing it and proliferating it, into restricting it, and inevitably we must eliminate it and just completely stop it.

Now, I don't know how we're going to do this. But that's why we're gathered, all of us. We're all actively trying to do something for the future because the past has definitely shown us that what we have got in the present is not something we want. Just to give some voice to what is glazed over or glossied up or shown to be a possibility, we must take into consideration all the people of this nation and of this world and all our relations, our personal, our families, our communities, our world. That's what we're striving for.

I'd like to close with a letter, read part of it that basically speaks to just some questions. And that is: Why do these, you know, we do these things that we do, all of us? The people's government as well as the people and all around the world. Why do antinuclear activists do what they do? Pushing for peace in the world. Encouraging education with depth, increasing understanding among people.

Why? Why oppose weapons testing in preparations for mass war? Respecting and honoring worldwide indigenous cultures, inalienable human rights. Why are these worth supporting? Who is caring about the daily tons of radioactive waste being produced? Even if Nevada can stop the waste shipments at its borders, where then would they go?

Why do we as a society continue producing an uncontrollable, life threatening, cancer causing substance? Aren't there other alternatives for life enhancing energy production, for life precious utilization of these given resources?

Nuclear issues must not be hidden from public view and understanding. People can do something. Direct actions including letters and calls to representatives in government and community groups and nonviolent demonstrations.

The questions remain, if not us, each and all, then who? If not now, when? If not here, where?

Thank you again.